

REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

*In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, in relation to the Claims
of Eleazer W. Ripley.*

MARCH 2, 1837.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

February 28, 1837.

SIR: By a resolution of the Senate passed on the 30th of June last, the Secretary of War is required to "report at the next session of Congress upon the claims of Eleazer W. Ripley, late a brevet major general of the army, exclusive of his claim for pension, according to the law as laid down in the case of the United States against said Ripley, in the Supreme Court of the United States, and the district court for the eastern district of Louisiana, and according to the principles of equity and justice."

As it has not been, and will not be, during the present session of Congress, in my power to make the above report, it is proper that the fact, together with the causes thereof, should be made known to the Senate. These causes have been and are—

1st. The indisposition of General Ripley, which, during the early part of the session, and at various subsequent periods set apart for the purpose, prevented him from paying that personal attention to the subject which he was desirous to give to it, and from attending at the Department, for the purpose of making the verbal explanations which he deemed proper, and which the multiplicity of the vouchers and the complex character of the accounts required; and,

2dly. My important current duties, which have been and are of so pressing a character as to preclude all possibility of taking up the subject at those periods when the indisposition of General Ripley would probably not interfere with my doing so.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,

Secretary of War ad interim.

Hon. WM. R. KING,

President of the Senate pro tempore.

